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Guide to the E.L. McGlashan Collection of Documents Concerning Slavery in the United States

GEN MSS 555



by Kathleen T. Burns

October 2006, updated February 2022

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Existence and Location of Copies	4
E. L. MCGLASHAN (1911-1978)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	6
Series I: Bills of Sale, 1789-1840	6
Series II: Receipts, 1846-1862	7
Series III: Estate Records, 1843-1860	8
Series IV: Other Documents, 1770-1863	9
Selected Search Terms	11

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 555

CREATOR: McGlashan, E. L. (Everitt Lynn), 1911-1978

TITLE: E. L. McGlashan collection of documents concerning slavery in the United States

DATES: 1770-1863

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection of 49 documents consists of manuscript bills of sale, receipts, estate appraisals, deeds of gift, manumission statements, promissory notes, and other papers documenting slave ownership and the slave trade in the United States between 1770 and 1863. The bulk of the material documents slavery in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky and Alabama. There are also legal documents recording slavery transactions in Maine, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mcglasha>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mcglasha>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Scott McGlashan to the Gilder Lehrman Center of Yale University. Gift of the Gilder Lehrman Center of Yale University, 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The E. L. McGlashan Collection of Documents Concerning Slavery in the United States is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

The E. L. McGlashan Collection of Documents Concerning Slavery in the United States. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

E. L. MCGLASHAN (1911-1978)

Everitt Lynn McGlashan was born in Perth, New York in 1911. A collector of Americana, his focus was on antiquarian books, archives, and ephemera documenting the American South and West. Most of the documents in McGlashan's collection of slavery material were purchased from secondhand bookstores in the nineteen sixties during family vacations in Richmond, Atlanta, New Orleans and other southern cities. McGlashan died in North Tarrytown, New York in 1978.

Scope and Contents

The E. L. McGlashan Collection of Papers Concerning Slavery in the United States consists of bills of sale, receipts, estate records, and other material documenting slave ownership and the slave trade in the United States. The papers span the dates 1770-1862, and predominantly document transactions in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, and Alabama. There are also records which document legal actions involving slaves in Maine, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana.

[Series I. Bills of Sale](#) is arranged chronologically and consists of 13 documents. The folder titles consist of transcribed information, and include the names of sellers, buyers, and slaves, as well as the dates of sales. The jurisdiction of sales has been transcribed when recorded. These documents also typically include the amount for which the slaves were sold; a witness statement; and the date of the sale's recording at the country clerk's office or other official registry. Some sales include description of the skills, age, physical condition and family relationships of the slaves. In many cases, annotations on the verso record subsequent transactions. Some records also provide information about the seller. The 1840 bill of sale for slaves sold by Antoine Lacour of Iberville Parish, Louisiana (folder 11) notes that the Lacour is a "free man of color."

[Series II. Receipts](#) is arranged chronologically and consists of 11 documents. The receipts usually include information about the sale, including the amount of money paid, the name of the slave, and the date of the sale. Some receipts also include a description of the physical condition and family relationships of the slaves being sold. Several of the receipts in this collection are recorded on preprinted forms completed in manuscript (folders 13, 14, 17, 18).

[Series III. Estate Records](#) is arranged chronologically and consists of property appraisals and inventories of the estates of deceased individuals in various Alabama counties between 1843 and 1860. Inventories

typically list the names of slaves and their valuation, as well as descriptions and valuation amounts for other personal property owned by the deceased. The records are annotated with witness statements, attestations, and often bear notes regarding the administration of the estate and the final division of property.

[Series IV. Other Documents](#) is arranged chronologically and consists of 17 manuscript and printed items related to slavery in the United States. The series includes deeds gifting slaves to relatives (folders 32, 36, 39, 41, 44), contracts for hiring out slave labor (folders 33, 35), and manumission statements, including one document that records the registering of three mulatto boys and their slave mother shortly after Pennsylvania's 1780 Gradual Abolition of Slavery Act (folder 31).

Documents in this collection were already numbered using a three character alphanumeric code when the materials were acquired by the Beinecke Library in 2005. The Gilder Lehrman Center used these codes in citations for items from this collection that were digitized for the Center's workshop "Sound as a Dollar: The Paperwork of Chattel Slavery." The codes have been retained in this finding aid and are listed in parentheses following the folder description.

Collection Contents**Series I: Bills of Sale, 1789-1840***0.11 linear feet (1/4 box)*

b. 1, f. 1	Gray, Stevens of Bertie County, North Carolina to Edward Turner, "one Negro woman named Priss" (C25)	1789 Apr 25
b. 1, f. 2	Rhodes, John of Bertie County, North Carolina to Joshua Davis, [Glasgow?] County, "Negro man named Jacob" (C30)	1793 Apr 5
b. 1, f. 3	Ferrell, Jephthah of Wake County, North Carolina to Patrick Terrell, "Negro boy named Jack about seventeen years old" (C1)	1793 May 11
b. 1, f. 3A	Hopson, George of New York, New York to John Arden and Frederick Babcock of New York, New York, "a certain Negroe boy slave aged eighteen years named Joseph"	1797 Feb 5
b. 1, f. 4	Warrin, Pleasant F. of Halifax County, Virginia to Mary Fulcher of Person County, North Carolina, "Negro boy about four years old named Gilbred" (C29)	1798 Jan 2
b. 1, f. 5	Boughton, Thomas of Essex County, [Virginia?] to Joseph Janey, "one Negroe woman named Halse" (H3) Verso notations record sale of Halse by Janey six days later to Abraham Shepherd and Shepherd's sale to John McDonogh and Shepherd Brown in New Orleans on 1708 Feb 10	1806 Dec 18
b. 1, f. 6	Jones, William and Nathaniel Howcott, Chowan County, North Carolina, "four Negroes, names as follows Rachel, Biner, Steaven, and Hannah" (H25)	1807 Feb 10
b. 1, f. 7	Satterfield, David of Person County, North Carolina to Jesse Lunsford, "a certain Negro boy by the name of Sam of a yellow complexion about ten years old" (C28)	1817 Jan 10
b. 1, f. 8	Haley, James H. of Wake County, North Carolina to Burrell Perry, "a certain Negro named Anthony about fifteen years of age" (C7)	1821 July 27
b. 1, f. 9	Hill, Benjamin of [P. County?] to Williamson Harpe, "one Negro girl named Becky, five years old" (C9)	1822 Feb 20
b. 1, f. 10	Hanlin, William of Hickman County, Tennessee to Lawson H. Nunnely, "a certain Negro boy named Andy about thirteen years of age" (H84)	1829 Feb 25
b. 1, f. 10A	Van Houten, Adrian R. of Bergen, New Jersey to Israel Crane of Bloomfield County, New Jersey, "a certain Negro woman named Dine and her daughter named Joe aged seven years seven months and twenty-two days"	1829 Aug 19
b. 1, f. 11	Lacour, Antoine of Iberville Parish, Louisiana to Macques Molaison Jr. of West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, "two slaves... Peter, a Negro man aged thirty years, and Paul, a Negro man also aged thirty years" (C39)	1840 Feb 4

Series II: Receipts, 1846-1862*0.1 linear feet (1/4 box)*

b. 1, f. 12	Davis, John. Receipt for "two Negroes, Jacob and Sam" from Thomas H. Anderson (H77)	1846 Oct 23
b. 1, f. 13	Perry, Willie. Receipt for "purchase of one Negro slave named Zena," sold to E. H. Simmons. Richmond, [Virginia] (C4)	1847 May 25
b. 1, f. 14	Miller, D. M. Receipt for "purchase of Negro slave named Moses," sold to E. H. Simmons. Richmond, [Virginia] (C23)	1847 Jun 5
b. 1, f. 15	[Bloodgood?], John. Receipt for "Madison and his wife Nancy, and two children, also Patty and an old woman... also Stephen [Hitchow?], his wife Hester," sold to Joseph Lundry. Montgomery, [Alabama] (H75)	1848 Mar 6
b. 1, f. 16	Sumner, Benjamin. Receipt for purchase of "one Negroe slave named Priscilla aged about twenty-two years," sold to E. H. Simmons. Lincoln County, North Carolina (C8)	1849 Oct 6
b. 1, f. 17	Campbell, B. M. & W. L. Receipt for sale of "four Negro slaves named Betsy and her three children... Rachel, Clea, and Eliza" to E. H. Simmons. Baltimore, [Maryland] (C2)	1851 Sep 4
b. 1, f. 18	Hall, William. W. Receipt for "purchase of a Negro slave named Mary and her child Louisiana," sold to Charles H. Shield. Norfolk, [Virginia] (H61)	1853 Sep 17
b. 1, f. 19	Harrison, C. A. Receipt for sale of "boy, Dick, aged about seven years," sold to W. W. Holden. Wake County, North Carolina (C6)	1857 Dec 1
b. 1, f. 20	Spins, W. Receipt for sale of "a Negro man named Peter," sold to E. H. Simmons. Hamburg (C3)	1857 Dec 18
b. 1, f. 21-22	Marlen, W. L. Receipts for two slaves sold to John H. Newton. Jackson County, Georgia (H26, H27)	1862 Mar 4

Series III: Estate Records, 1843-1860*0.1 linear feet (1/4 box)*

b. 1, f. 23	Bethen, Hugh. Monroe County, Alabama (H79)	1843 Oct 30
b. 1, f. 24	Young, Hugh. Wilcox County, Alabama (H81)	1844 Jan 24
b. 1, f. 25	Sellers, Samuel. Wilcox County, Alabama (H82)	1852 Nov 27
b. 1, f. 26	Evans Law, John Alex. Wilcox County, Alabama (H76)	1859 Nov 16
b. 1, f. 27-28	Burton, Ephraim T. Greene County, Alabama (C32, C33)	1860
b. 1, f. 29	Haddox, Catherine. Wilcox County, Alabama (H80)	1860 Mar 26

Series IV: Other Documents, 1770-1863

0.11 linear feet (1/4 box)

0.11' (1/4 box)

b. 1, f. 30	Martin, Jacob. Manumission document for a "Negro manservant named Boston," [Biddeford, Maine?] (M12)	1770 Aug 17
b. 1, f. 31	Boyd, William of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Record of registration for three mulatto children and their mother (C22)	1789 Mar 31
b. 1, f. 32	Dargan, Ann. Deed of gift and sale for "the moiety of the Negro man slave named Virginia" to nephew William Moon, Bertie County, North Carolina (C26)	1802 Nov 8
b. 1, f. 33	Nicohols, Zachariah. Contract for "the hire of a negro Pearse for the ensuing year" (C21)	1808 Dec 28
b. 1, f. 33A	Green, Stephen of Georgetown, South Carolina, emancipation of "a mulatto female slave named Jenny and her son William"	1819 Aug 19
b. 1, f. 34	Henry Gorin acting for William W. Whitaker. Execution against property form, issued against [Lewith Lofland, Iavano Cromwell, Charles Lofland, and Lamuel Hill?]. Logan County, Kentucky (H16) Verso bears notations for carrying out payment of debt, including sale of slaves	1822 Sep 20
b. 1, f. 35	Brooks, R. S. and R. J. [Vallant?]. Contract for "the hire [of] Negro boy Wright," from William Bibb, [Huntsville, Alabama] (C35)	1827 Jan 1
b. 1, f. 36	Harward, John. Deed of gift for "one Negro girl by the name of Marget" to his son, John Harward, Wake County, North Carolina (C5)	1830 Jan 5
b. 1, f. 37	Bonan, John and James Petty. Promissory note for purchase of "Negro man name[d] Ben" (C10)	1832 Dec 7
b. 1, f. 38	Clagett, Richard. "Public Sale of Negroes," Potters Mart, Charleston, South Carolina, printed broadside (C38)	1833 Mar 5
b. 1, f. 39	[Gains, Janus?] of Randolph County, North Carolina. Deed of gift for "one Negro man named Isham about twenty years old, one Negro woman named Carolina about twenty-five years old, and another Negro woman named Uma and her child Alfred," to his daughter, Julia E. [Armstead?] of Wilcox County, Alabama (H78)	1835 Nov 2
b. 1, f. 40	"Inventory and sale of 1/6 Negro man, Moses, and 1/6 part of Negro woman, [Pheriley?]... Richard C. Fulford's estate," manuscript copy (C37)	1837 Nov 15
b. 1, f. 41	Walker, Moses of Person County, North Carolina. Deed of gift for "one Negro man Ferryman, one boy Frank," to his son, Alexander Walker of Halifax County, Virginia (C27)	1847 Mar 17
b. 1, f. 42	Burwell, Cornelius and T. J. Execution against property form, issued against estate of H. W. Wells and Thomas R. Wells. Logan County, Kentucky (H17) Attached document dated 1859 May 13 records transfer of "a Negro boy" to sheriff in payment of debt	1859 Mar 28
b. 1, f. 43	[Ramsey?], Joseph B. Note relating to capture of escaped slave, Augusta, [Georgia] (C36)	1859 May 13
b. 1, f. 44	Brown, Burwell of Wake County, North Carolina. Deed of gift for "the following slaves Caroline, Henry, Mary, Alek, William," to his son-in-law, Richard J. Holt (C11)	1861 Nov 14

b. 1, f. 45	Harris, James M. for S. Tinsley. Tax certificate, printed form completed in manuscript, Bedford County, [Virginia] (C12)	1860
b. 1, f. 46	Wells, Irby S. Duplicate receipt related to claim for compensation against the Confederate government for loss of a slave employed in military fortifications, Columbia, South Carolina (C16)	1863 Dec 17

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African Americans -- History -- To 1863
Slaveholders -- United States
Slaveholders -- United States
Slavery -- United States
Slaves -- Emancipation -- United States
Slaves -- United States
Slave trade -- United States

Genres / Formats

Conveyances
Estate inventories
Receipts (financial records)

Names

McGlashan, E. L. (Everitt Lynn), 1911-1978